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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The longshoremen's union cannot now [Feb 54] be considered a Communist dominated member of the Finnish Confederation of Trade Unions [SAK]. About two years ago [1951 or early 1952] the union was controlled by the Communists and its activities endangered the country's economy. Its President, Niilo Wallari, although a Social Democrat and not a Communist Party member, followed the Communist line in most of his speeches and actions. In 1952 some of the Communist "fellow traveler" types who held official positions in Communist dominated trade unions resigned and joined the Social Democratic Party. At that time Wallari declared that he and his union were not Communist and were following an independent line of action. However, just prior to the longshoremen's union election about a year ago [1953 ?] the Social Democrat members of the union told Wallari that they wouldn't support his reelection if he continued his Communist connections. Since he couldn't afford the loss of their support, he promised to actually follow his earlier avowal that he had no Communist sympathies. Since the election the longshoremen's union has appeared to be less and less influenced by its Communist element.

2. As of February 1954 [] the following SAK member unions are Communist dominated:

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- a. the bricklayers;
- b. the log floaters - men who float logs downriver to the sawmills;
- c. the divers (deep sea);
- d. the food producers - bakery help, meat butchers, etc;
- e. the textile workers - Communist control is weakening and may soon be lost;
- f. the leather workers.

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Since December 1953 I learned that the paper (wood pulp) workers union has thrown out its Communist leaders and can now [February 1954] be considered as non-Communist. Therefore, only six of the 40 SAK unions are Communist controlled.

3. Although the majority of workers in the Communist controlled SAK unions may belong to the Social Democratic or other Parties, each of those unions has a small clique composed of Communist Party members which through underground cells and financial pressure persuades local unit members to follow the Communist line. Also, the Finnish Communist Party, which seems to have unlimited funds compared to its only adversary in the struggle for labor control, the Social Democratic Party, can hold frequent local mass meetings by which the Party skillfully influences the workers to vote for Communist union officers and programs. The Social Democratic Party is hard pressed for money and is rallying its influential members to raise funds for the March 1954 campaign and other projects. It has even persuaded Arvo Tuominen, the well-known political writer and Social Democrat living in Stockholm, to return to Helsinki to take part in this fund raising.

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